

September 24, 2007

**City of Milton-Freewater  
City Council Minutes**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in regular session Monday, September 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Albee Room of the Library.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Orrin Lyon, Ed Chesnut, Keith Woods, Debbie Kelley, Steve Irving and Brad Humbert.

Staff members present were City Manager Delphine Palmer, Assistant City Manager Linda Hall, Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw, Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer, Electric Superintendent Mike Charlo and Community Development Supervisor Mike Watkins.

Citizens present were Merri Anne Huber, Pat Thomson, Emilio Sandoval, Patsy Sandoval, Sierra Brummett and Christine Boedigheimer.

Press member present was Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS: The consent calendar items consist of minutes from the September 10, 2007 city council meeting and Authorization to increase minimum capitalization values from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Councilor Kelley asked for a report on capitalization. Assistant City Manager Linda Hall stated that historically the City has not adjusted minimum cost of items capitalized. Capitalized items are tracked with blue inventory tags. Every item is tracked and depreciated over time. The inventory becomes substantial with each \$1,000 item. When GASB-34 was implemented, the inventory became excessive because streets, bridges and curbs are all tracked now. Because of this, the City's inventory has become quite cumbersome. Last year the auditors suggested that Finance Director Dave Richmond raise the minimum in keeping with other cities in the State of Oregon to items valued at \$5,000 or more. Councilor Kelley said this minimum would eliminate computers. Ms. Hall said this is correct, but further said they would be tagged, just not depreciated. Councilor Chesnut clarified saying items less than \$5,000 would be expensed in the year purchased. Ms. Hall concurred.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to adopt the consent calendar items. Councilor Woods seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2063 DECLARING PROPERTY TO BE SURPLUS. Electric Superintendent Mike Charlo stated that within the normal course of operation in the Electric department wire is taken down that has failed and a certain amount of "junk" wire is collected and stored. Once or twice annually this collection of wire needs to be taken to the scrap yard. Mr. Charlo said it is estimated about \$1,100 worth of wire in bare copper and mixed aluminum. Aluminum is not worth much because it is both bare and insulated. The Electric department would like to suggest to declare this property surplus and donate the proceeds to the "Make A Difference Day" program that some of the community

members and some city staff have attempted to keep going. Currently their projects include the Little League field and McRae/Ireland field.

Councilor Kelley motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2063 Declaring scrap wire to be surplus and to donate the sale proceeds to the Make A Difference Day project for use on McRae-Ireland Field and the Little League Field. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

#### CONSIDERATION OF YOUTH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE APPLICATIONS.

Assistant City Manager Linda Hall stated there were two good applications for the vacant position as Youth City Councilor. Ms. Hall said both applicants were in the audience. Sierra Brummett and Patsy Sandoval turned in the applications which were included in each council packet. Both are high school seniors this year. Mayor Key asked if they could have two. Ms. Hall said yes, but reminded the Council that there was a vacancy on the Library Board.

Ms. Sandoval said the reason she would like to be included as a youth representative on the City Council is that she would like to help her community and would like to be more involved and offer ideas to improve the community and make it a better place for everyone.

Councilor Chesnut wanted Ms. Sandoval to be aware that her vote on the Council would not change any outcome, that her impact may be limited, but having a youth councilor does give the Council a youthful viewpoint before the Council makes any decision with votes that count. Councilor Chesnut then asked if Ms. Sandoval would have a way to report back experiences to the Mac-Hi student body or student government. Is there a mechanism connecting this governing body with those in Mac-Hi who are also interested in government. Councilor Woods asked if she would be comfortable in the role of liaison between the City and Mac-Hi students, and asked if she would communicate with students and faculty to bring to the Council their thoughts and ideas, and vice versa. Ms. Sandoval stated she could. Councilor Woods asked what Ms. Sandoval learned while working at the aquatic center this summer. She said she learned to be patient with people and provide the best service possible. Councilor Irving asked if the other person were chosen, would Ms. Sandoval feel comfortable serving on the Library Board. Ms. Sandoval said she would. Councilor Humbert asked what direction Ms. Sandoval thought she would take in college. Ms. Sandoval said her goal was to become a dentist. Councilor Kelley asked if Ms. Sandoval had held any kind of office or been part of any group other than being a student at Mac-Hi. Ms. Sandoval said she had been an ASB (Associated Student Body) officer, member of clubs-science, varsity, key, and honor society. Councilor Irving asked if Ms. Sandoval was currently part of ASB. Ms. Sandoval said she was not.

Ms. Sierra Brummett stated she would like the opportunity to serve on the City Council as she is active in politics and has studied politics. She said she would like to be more involved in local government. As a student at the local high school, Ms. Brummett said she felt she could offer some very good ideas and a fresh opinion.

Councilor Chesnut asked if Ms. Brummett would be willing to serve on the Library Board. Ms. Brummett said she would as she was very active, and would enjoy helping in any way.

Councilor Chesnut asked if Ms. Brummett had had any experience with the ASB. Ms. Brummett stated she did not, but had run several times. At Central Middle School, Ms. Brummett said she was a student representative on the CCLC (Central Community Learning Center) grant committee. She and another student conceived the idea for this center and helped to earn the grant for the program. Councilor Humbert asked what Ms. Brummett's college plans are. Ms. Brummett said she had considered two options: military service because she would like to serve her country, or if going directly to college, would like to major in political science at Oregon State University, and either teach or be a politician. Councilor Kelley asked what form of activity in politics Ms. Brummett had been involved. She said she currently was working at getting involved in the Democratic Women's Society, and have done research on international politics and like reading current events. Ms. Brummett also said she was editor of the school newspaper where she covers a lot of political issues.

Councilor Irving wanted to clarify that even though the youth councilor vote does not count, their opinion does.

Councilor Woods said he felt blessed to have two good applicants this year where last year there were none. Councilor Irving said this is a learning process for the youth, but the youth are also the next generation of leaders and he looked forward to the opportunity to work with the youth.

Councilor Chesnut motioned to appoint Ms. Patsy Sandoval to the position of Youth Councilor and Ms. Sierra Brummett to the Library Board. Councilor Woods seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Councilor Humbert spoke directly to Ms. Brummett asking her not to be discouraged. That her ambition in political science and politics is important and unseen in seventeen and eighteen year olds today. Councilor Humbert said he too was interested in politics at a young age. He further said, "Serve on the Library Board, serve it well and continue on with your ambitions."

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENTS LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION. Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer stated this item was for a special event liquor license petitioned by the Chamber of Commerce for a new family event called the Harvest Festival. Chief Boedigheimer said he received the application on September 5, 2007 and since this is a new application and new event, there is no historical data available. Approximately 250 persons may attend this event and Chief Boedigheimer recommended approving the license with the serving of beer, wine and hard cider. Because minors will be in attendance, it was recommended that city police officers float through the event to check on the atmosphere and demeanor of the event. Should any problems arise at this event, Chief Boedigheimer recommended further study for any future events, but at this time the police department recommends the approval of the special events liquor license at this time.

Councilor Chesnut asked for a description and purpose of the new Harvest Festival event. Chamber President Mike Charlo said this event was designed partially to recover funds unearned on the rainy Sunday during the Muddy Frogwater Festival. If this is a successful

event, it will be continued. There will be German sausages, sauerkraut, grilled onions, potato salads, beer, wine and hard cider along with music for dancing.

Councilor Kelley said the description is more of an adult event versus a family event. Mr. Charlo said it would be similar to the American Legion Crab Feed. Children and adults both attend, but only adults may have any alcohol.

Councilor Irving said he was directly involved in the Chamber, being President Elect for next year and if anyone objected to his voting, he would abstain. Councilor Kelley said all council members were associated with the Chamber through the City.

Councilor Kelley motioned to approve the liquor license application for the Harvest Festival. Councilor Humbert seconded the motion which passed with Councilor Lyon casting a dissenting vote.

UPDATE COMMUNITY BUILDING MANAGEMENT. Community Development Supervisor Mike Watkins presented information to the Council with information regarding the community building revenues and kind of events along with monthly and weekly activities.

Councilor Kelley asked if VIPS were always at events. Mr. Watkins said they were but just recently it was discovered that VIPS volunteers cannot be used for security. A security group, from Dayton and Waitsburg, discovered these security people could not work in Oregon. They were asked to get certified or not do this anymore. The VIPS were beneficial as a presence. Councilor Woods asked why the VIPS could not be used as security. Chief Boedigheimer said briefly that to provide security in the State of Oregon one would have to be certified through DPSST which is the governing body over police and security in Oregon. VIPS volunteers are not certified; however, Chief Boedigheimer said he just received information as to how VIPS volunteers can be certified. The training for security certification is minimal—only six to eight hours, and Chief Boedigheimer said he will now work to get VIPS personnel security certified.

Councilor Kelley asked for clarification believing with this information that we no longer have the capacity to monitor groups. Mr. Watkins said that for now, no, but when a group rents the building now and the forms are completed, Mr. Watkins informs the applicants they should provide designated monitors. These people would not participate in the event, but would be designated strictly as monitors. Police officers may be called out. They have shut down one event and were called to another. Councilor Kelley asked if VIPS personnel could act as monitors and to call for police assistance if there is a problem. Mr. Watkins said this was the standard procedure, but monitors and security cross over. Chief Boedigheimer said that VIPS personnel were actually performing four out of five duties of a security guard and therefore need to earn their certification for liability purposes. Councilor Kelley asked what the timeline was for VIPS personnel to be certified. Chief Boedigheimer said DPSST would evaluate each application for certification and determine how much training is necessary. A training program will then be tailored for the applicants. But the training for unarmed private security is still minimal. Chief Boedigheimer said he could probably facilitate the training at their meetings and have them

trained in a couple of months. Councilor Kelley requested that when VIPS personnel receive their certification that they be brought before the Council and introduced.

Councilor Woods asked if the community building usage was at its maximum capacity. Mr. Watkins said it was close. It depends on what kind of event and what time slot would be requested. Currently we have events Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – decorate Friday for Saturday events. Irrigation District/Flood Control has their meeting monthly. Councilor Woods asked what the average income would be. Mr. Watkins said he was unsure as this is the only data available since the City recently took over mid January of this year.

Councilor Irving announced that Pendleton Grain Growers used the community building last week and the operations manager found it was easy to make arrangements and use the building.

BID AWARD 2007 ALFALFA HAY SALE – PASTURE LEASE. Public Works Superintendent Dave Bradshaw stated this was an annual issue and this year the hay sale is good with bids approximately \$16,000 higher than budgeted. Mr. Bradshaw said he recommended to award alfalfa hay to the high bidders. Councilor Woods asked about the pasture lease, if it was an annual or monthly lease. Mr. Bradshaw said this lease was lump sum, winter pasture from about mid October after the last cutting of alfalfa through sometime in March. Assistant City Manager Linda Hall explained that most pasture land is leased out in units (cow calf unit) which protects the land from being over-grazed. In this case the City will be taking the alfalfa out, so Mr. Bradshaw established a minimum to ensure something for the lease as the City has nothing in it. Councilor Lyon asked if J&C Farming was Jeff Leber. Mr. Bradshaw said it was.

Councilor Kelley motioned to award the bids as presented. Councilor Woods seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Mayor Key announced this was the opportunity for citizens to approach the Council with issues not on this agenda. None approached.**

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

The group PETS has spayed or neutered 115 cats just this year, where almost all were located in the trailer park behind Smart Car. There are 40 others that have been captured in various locations in the city. They have also placed 75 kittens. Normally, the City gives this organization \$1,000 to cover costs to spay and neuter, but the group is asking for additional funds. There are several cats living in the vacant house on Columbia Street and some other places as well. They have asked that the City consider giving another \$1,000. There are funds available for this expenditure. Council agreed to pay the PETS group additional funds.

#### **COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Kelley said she forgot to write down one piece that she was going to say at City Manager Delphine Palmer's reception on Friday. Mark Gilbert was there and a lot of accomplishments were mentioned during Ms. Palmer's tenure, but the Make A Difference

Day and the beautiful building the reception was held in was not mentioned. Councilor Kelley said she would send Mr. Gilbert a note.

Councilor Kelley said it has been very good to work with Ms. Palmer.

Councilor Irving reported on the meeting hosted by Meyer Memorial Trust that both he and Mayor Key attended. The Meyer Memorial Trust was established about 15 years ago with \$100 million placed in trust and currently there is better than \$630 million in trust. Over \$30 million are endowed in grant funds throughout the State of Oregon and Clark County Washington. Information was given regarding their website, grant funding and criteria.

Assistant City Manager Linda Hall thanked Ms. Palmer for her leadership over the past six years.

At 7:50 p.m. the Council adjourned to an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with person designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

The City Council returned to open session from executive session at 7:55 p.m.

No press or citizens were outside the Council Chambers when the doors were opened.

Councilor Kelley moved to approve and ratify the Police Labor Contract as presented by City Manager Delphine Palmer. Councilor Chesnut seconded the motion which passed with Councilor Humbert casting the lone dissenting vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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Lewis S. Key, Mayor